

MILLS ON SILVER.

Signs of Growing Enlightenment on the Currency.

Senator Mills has announced his opposition to the free coinage of silver by this country. It is probable that his declaration will not greatly surprise the silver men, for Senator Mills has long been a doubtful quantity in the currency discussion. It is true that he has not been counted sound by the opponents of silver, but he has not been of great assistance to its friends, while he has utterly failed them on one or two occasions—notably in the extraordinary session which Mr. Cleveland called for the purpose of securing the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman act. On that occasion Mr. Mills was a tower of strength to the cause of sound money, and when he was elected senator he refused to obey the wishes of the majority of the legislature of Texas to put the currency question before that of tariff reform. At that time he convinced the legislature not only that he might be right, but that he was the best man of all the candidates to represent the state in the senate.

While it is true, therefore, that Mr. Mills has been counted as a silver man, it is not true that the announcement of his final conclusion on the subject marks the conversion of an ardent advocate of free coinage. To those who know the man, the rugged honesty of his mind and the conscientiousness and thoroughness of his study of any question that demands his vote, his announcement cannot come as a surprise. It is the belief of those who are intelligently opposed to the free coinage of silver that discussion and study will convince any man of sound mind that the gold standard must be maintained in this country so long as it remains the standard of the commercial nations with which we deal most largely. This being so, it was inevitable that Senator Mills should reach the conclusion which he has just announced in his letter to the chairman of the democratic state committee of Texas.

The convincing arguments with which he has accompanied this announcement cannot fail to have a good effect. He has rightfully a larger influence with his constituents than is possessed by the average senator. Moreover, there have been signs of a growing enlightenment on the money question in Texas, so that altogether Senator Mills' enlistment as a worker in the cause of honest money—and he is a worker who never tires and never rests so long as there is a chance to do anything for the cause he has at heart—is a noteworthy episode, and much good ought to result from it.

But there is another aspect in which this incident will present itself to those who are accustomed to consider American politicians as men who take counsel of their popularity rather than of their principles. Mr. Mills is not such a man. On more than one occasion he has with sturdy courage risked his political future by his stern loyalty to his principles. He is one of the few senators of our generation who would rather go out of public life than violate his conscience. And such a man any American community ought to delight to honor.—Harper's Weekly.

A Vanishing Fallacy.

Every indication points to the subsidence of the free silver at sixteen to one. Fomented by the ring of silver producers and speculators who hope to make millions by a free coinage law, it looked for a time as though the south and west were overwhelmingly in favor of it, and that the wave of feeling would deluge a part of the east. But the campaign of education which was begun at once soon led the people to see the truth; and while tens of thousands still believe there is not enough money in the country, yet they were unwilling to encourage a plan which would simply cut the value of the dollar in half, and bring on confusion and financial ruin. Neither of the two great parties will advocate free coinage at sixteen to one in its national platform next year; nor will there be a split in either over it. The fallacy will be left to the dying populist party, and vanish with it, as did the fiat money delusion with the death of the greenback party.—Toledo Blade.

The Craze Is Spent.

The white metal craze has about spent itself and the people have no reason to fear any debasement of the currency for at least two years. Even if a free coinage bill should pass congress, it would of course encounter a veto from President Cleveland, whose sound money views are too well known to admit of any doubt as to the fate of such a bill. This splendid showing will be immeasurably gratifying to the industrial and commercial interests of the country, which were apprehensive as to the probable effect of the plausible yet indefensible yelp of the noisy and perniciously active flatists. The assurance of the maintenance of an honest standard of value will secure confidence in our securities and give tone to our commercial exchanges and new life to our productive industries.—Chicago Times-Herald.

...A poor play called "The Silver Lining," which miserably failed in Chicago, is in the silver mining country, where the newspapers are raving about it and saying "it is practically impossible to produce it east of the Mississippi river." But this is merely silver dollar-a-ling.—Chicago Tribune.

...Before the indifference of the public to silver agitation drives all the silver shouters into retirement they ought to call in a body upon the iron manufacturers and tell them once more that they are being ruined by falling prices.—Cleveland Leader.

...And now it is said that the silverites are dissatisfied with Sibley and will put up another man for president. What's the matter with Sibley? Is he protecting his gold reserve too closely?—Louisville Courier-Journal.

...It is true that silver is sound money, or very largely.—Chicago Tribune.

THE PEOPLE'S SAVINGS.

Testimony That Refutes the Charges of Free Silver Fanatics.

The official figures in the statistical abstract of the United States for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1894, show that there were in that time 4,777,687 depositors in savings banks, and that the deposits aggregated \$1,747,961,280. This is not a complete showing, as the banks of a number of states were not reported. It is estimated that, with such banks included, the amount of deposits would have been increased to about \$2,000,000,000. In the absence of the official figures for the year ended June 30, 1895, it is impossible to tell how the deposits of that year compare with those of the previous one; but it is safe to say that there has been a considerable decrease, on account of the unfavorable conditions that prevailed in the closing months of 1894 and the early part of 1895. When there is full employment for labor, and wages are good, the deposits of the savings banks show a regular increase, which represents the surplus to the credit of the workmen after the payment of their expenses of living. There is no better barometer of the prosperity of the country. The money in the savings banks is the most reliable indication of the material situation of the wage-earners who constitute such a large proportion of the people, and whose welfare is the basis of national good fortune.

If we cannot know what the decrease has been in the past year, however, we can at least see that the savings banks deposits during the twelve months above noted were more than twice as large as those of 1873, the year in which "the great crime" of demonetization of silver was perpetrated. We are continually being told by Mr. Bland and his fellow-fanatics that the effect of said legislation in the interests of stable currency and the maintenance of the public credit was to make life harder for the laboring people. But these figures directly and conclusively refute that sort of talk by demonstrating that the surplus earnings of that class increased 50 percent. in the year ended June 30, 1894, over the fiscal year in which "the great crime" is alleged to have blighted the general prosperity and brought all kinds of misfortune to pass. The testimony of the savings banks returns is practical and unanswerable in this relation. It is impossible for workingmen to make deposits unless they earn more money than it costs them to live; and when such deposits are doubled under a given policy it is folly to declare that policy a fraud and an outrage. The simple truth is, as these statistics prove, that the legislation of 1873 with regard to silver, which the free-coiners never tire of denouncing in the most indignant and scurrilous terms, did not do any harm to the wage-earners, but tended rather to increase their savings, and to promote their comfort and happiness.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

SILVER IN THE NEW CONGRESS.

The Cheap Money Boom Has Become a Vacuum.

A committee of the New York chamber of commerce has been making a canvass of the financial creeds of members of the Fifty-fourth congress with results that are both interesting and gratifying.

According to this committee the next house of representatives will contain 88 advocates of free silver, 216 sound money men and 53 members whose views are doubtful or unknown. Of the 88 free silverites only 30 are republicans, while 51 are democrats and the other 7 populists.

In the senate there are 43 votes against free coinage, while the utmost that the silverites can muster is 39 votes. Six senators are in doubt, and when Utah is admitted its two senators will probably annex themselves to the silver ranks. But the marked disintegration that has begun among the silverites, and the universally flabby condition of free coinage sentiment among all classes, make it necessary to discount liberally the face value of the silver showing in congress. The figures which the New York investigators have discovered may be safely divided by two, so far as the free silver forces are concerned.

The order of the day henceforth in the silver ranks will be desertion. The example of Senator Mills, of Texas, in boldly changing front and coming out on the side of sound money will not lack for imitators. Few of the men who are sent to Washington are so ignorant as really to believe in the free silver sophistry. They pose as apostles of that fiat creed because they believe that is what their constituents want. But the moment the craze dies out in their home districts they will speedily have a change of heart. This change set in some time ago, and is admitted by the most ardent silver agitators themselves, among them Vest, of Missouri, and Jones, of Nevada.

The silverite boom, like the silverite dollar, has become 50 percent. vacuum.—Chicago Journal.

...There are three hundred and fifty-six members of the national house of representatives who have votes. Of these, most respectable authority computes two hundred and sixteen to be openly and avowedly opposed to the free coinage of silver, eighty-eight in favor of it and fifty-two doubtful. In the Fifty-fifth congress the majority in favor of sound money will be even more pronounced.—Louisville Times.

...The one thing consistent about the free silver maples is the universality of the hallucination that possesses them. In their disordered brains all things are topsy-turvy. They have eyes; but they see not. They have ears; but they hear not. If they were only dumb, now, what a blessing it would be to themselves and their neighbors!—Louisville Courier-Journal.

...The cause of a free silver is rapidly losing its voice, and, as voice constituted seven-eighths of its stock, is about ready for the coroner.—Chicago Times-Herald.

STOVES EARN DOLLARS.

This Sounds Funny, But It Is True Just the Same.

Uncle Sam Adds to His Wealth Year After Year Through the Carelessness of Citizens Who Hide Money in Stoves.

Special Washington Letter.

Stoves of all kinds make money for the government. The parlor stove, the sitting-room stove, the stove in the bedroom and the big base burner in the large hall of the biggest mansion in town; all of them make money for Uncle Sam on the principle that "a penny saved is a penny earned." These stoves "save" money for the government by destroying the notes upon which are printed the "promise to pay," which makes greenbacks and national bank notes worth their face value.

Throughout the length and breadth of the land there is no method of saving money more popular than the custom of hiding it away in an unused sitting-room stove during the summer. When the fire is lighted in the autumn the cash goes up in the smoke, and then the owner makes application to have the ashes redeemed. The chief of the redemption division says that not less than one hundred such cases are submitted to him every fall. Sometimes the remains are not too far consumed for identification, but as a rule this method of destroying money is found to be singularly effective. There was received recently at the treasury \$120 in the shape of a small quantity of ashes packed into a thimble, from Texas. The woman who owned the \$120 had drawn the sum from bank and deposited it in a stove for safe keeping, with the usual result. Unfortunately, the ashes are indistinguishable from any other ashes, and so she will lose the entire amount; and it is probably all she had in the world.

The dear old parlor stove, which keeps the rising bread warm during the winter nights, after Julia's "company" has said good-night for the hundredth time, and after Julia has gone to bed with mamma's scolding ringing in her ears for sitting up so late—the red-hot old parlor stove is a considerable source of income to the United States treasury, though the contributors to the fund accumulated by its means are invariably most unwilling ones. The parlor stove is unused for many months, and only one member of the family knows that it is the custodian of a treasure in paper. The only one who knows the fact is never present when the first fire is started in October, "just to take chill the off of the room" when company is expected. And the paper money is all consumed.

Uncle Sam promises to pay in coin the amount printed on his paper money, and he is able and willing to do so. He issues the money for the payment of debts. It is accepted by government officials. They spend it and it goes into circulation. When it reaches the stove, the government is under obligations to redeem it in coin. When it is burned, Uncle Sam is relieved of all obligations and is therefore just so much ahead.

When cars are burned in railroad accidents large sums of paper money are consumed. There was an accident one day in Kentucky when two trains met in a tunnel, one of them loaded with passengers and the other a freight, carrying coal and iron. For thirty hours the wreck burned and such was the heat generated that the iron was melted and flowed like water. In the express car of the passenger train was a safe with \$1,000 cash in it, besides a lot of jewelry. It was all paper money and was reduced to ashes. Whenever a railroad disaster occurs fire usually ensues, and the express car is consumed. Now an express car almost invariably carries a safe with more or less money in it, among other valuables. The safe, unless it is one for transporting government money, is apt to be of the portable kind and not fireproof. Thus it is an almost everyday occurrence for one of these safes to arrive at the treas-



MAKING A DEPOSIT.

ury with its cash contents in the shape of more or less hopeless ashes. But the government has no desire to take advantage of these disasters. Experts are employed whose business is to redeem as much burned money as can possibly be identified. It is wonderful how these skilled workers can identify a bill by a little piece of charred paper. They can take a few little pieces of burned and crumbling ashes, so hopelessly destroyed that to the ordinary inexperienced eye they would be worth no more than a burned cigar, and from them rehabilitate a bill which may be redeemable for thousands of dollars in bright new bills at the paying teller's desk.

All that is required is sufficient evidence that the originals of the notes have been really destroyed. Morsels no bigger than your finger nail are every day redeemed for the face value of the bills they represent. As to this it is largely a matter of chance. If the morsel were merely a corner, it would not be likely to suffice for the identification of the note. Supposing that the

case is that of a bank note, it is absolutely essential that the bank should be determined, else payment cannot be made. But let the bit presented show the name of the bank, its number, or even a portion of one of the officers' signatures, and it goes. Until very recently portions of notes sent in have been redeemed on the discount principle—nine-tenths of a ten-dollar bill bringing nine dollars, and so on—but now the law is that the smallest portion is redeemable at the full face value, if only it is accompanied by satisfactory affidavits as to the loss of the remainder. Some few attempts have been made to swindle the treasury in this way by false affidavits, but the department believes that it has always discovered them. Such trickery is rather discouraging to the officials when the government means to be honest; but the work of the experts is always conscientious and earnest in the efforts to save the people from losses by misfortune.

During the civil war the government issued \$447,000,000 in small notes. They were for 3, 5, 10, 15, 25 and 50 cents each, and were commonly called "shinplasters" in those days. The records of the treasury department show that more than \$11,000,000 of this currency was never sent to the treasury for redemption, and Uncle Sam was just that much ahead in the transaction. It is presumed that nearly all of it was destroyed in various ways during the war.

It is estimated that the government gains a little over 1 per cent. on all of its issues of paper currency by contraction in various ways. The stoves of the country play an important part, but there is a great deal of money in paper hoarded every year by persons who die without revealing its whereabouts, and much of it is never found. Sums in this shape are often dug up on the persons of corpses exhumed for other purposes. Not long ago the body of a murdered man was discovered in the woods near an Ohio town badly decomposed and with a pocketbook filled with greenbacks. The latter were sent to the treasury here for redemption, which did not prove in this instance a pleasant task for the experts in the redemption division. Nearly all of them are ladies.

The greatest gain to the government was made from the fractional currency



DISCOVERING HER LOSS.

of war times, mentioned above. The first issue of these small notes was made in 1863, and of the 5-cent notes then put forth nearly one-half—more than 45 percent., accurately speaking—has never been asked payment for. The same thing is true of 30 per cent. of the 10-cent notes, 20 per cent. of the 25-cent notes and 11 per cent. of the 50-cent notes. It is shown by the figures treasury total that of the \$30,000,000 worth of these little notes first issued more than \$4,000,000 still remains outstanding, and it will probably never be presented for redemption.

While the government gains by reason of the losses sustained by individuals in the destruction of paper money, the treasury is slightly depleted by the wearing away of gold coin. Every gold piece is of course alloyed, for, as is well known, gold is such a soft metal that it could not be used for money without amalgamation with baser metals. The gold in the vaults of the treasury department lies untouched for months, and some of it for years, encased in small canvas bags. With every change of a national administration a new treasurer is appointed, and then every dollar is counted, so that the outgoing treasurer can receive receipts from his successor showing that his accounts are correct. It is a singular and commendable fact that treasurers of the United States have been exceptionally honest and capable. On one occasion, in 1885, when the treasury cash was counted, three pennies were missing in a sum total of hundreds of millions of dollars. These pennies were afterwards found on the floor of one of the vaults. They had fallen out of an old and worn-out canvas bag. Although the coin is seldom handled, the government loses something every time by the friction of the gold, but the loss is almost infinitesimal, as compared with the gains which are made on the issues of paper money. SMITH D. FREY.

Lincoln Tablet at Gettysburg.

The act of congress to establish a national military park at Gettysburg, Pa., contained an appropriation of \$5,000 for a suitable bronze tablet, containing on it the address delivered by President Abraham Lincoln, at Gettysburg, November 19, 1863, on the occasion of the dedication of the national cemetery at that place. Provision was also made for a pedestal. The duty of having this tablet made was devolved upon the secretary of war, and Secretary Lamont has instructed Col. John M. Wilson, corps of engineers, in charge of public buildings and grounds, to see to the prompt execution of the statutory provision, and Col. Wilson is now making the necessary arrangements.

A Fast Life.

"What ever became of our old chum Harris?"
"Oh, he's leading a very fast life."
"You don't say?"
"Yes, he's running a trolley car."—Washington Post.

TEN MEN SLAIN.

Awful Result of an Explosion of Gas in a Mine.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Oct. 8.—Shortly after 5 o'clock Monday afternoon an explosion of gas occurred in the Dora mine, operated by the Lehigh Valley Coal company, which is situated in the northwestern part of the city. At 8 o'clock five men, all badly burned, were brought to the surface. At midnight the bodies of the members of the engineer corps and six laborers were brought to the surface by the rescuing party.

The following are dead: William Cahill, W. L. Jones and L. Owens, mining engineers; Daniel Reese, mine boss, and six unknown laborers.

Injured—Robert Blanchard and William Miller, fatally; George Lally, Michael Moss and Joseph Murphy, seriously burned. When Blanchard was found he was being slowly roasted to death. The gas had set fire to his clothes and they had been almost burned off his body when the rescuers came upon him. Miller with his broken arms could render him no assistance, and Blanchard was so pinned down by the debris that he could not make use of his hands.

Blanchard gave his version of the explosion to a reporter as he lay on a cot in the hospital. Shortly before 5 o'clock the engineer corps decided to make a survey of a portion of the old abandoned workings, known as the Baltimore section, which underlie the Wilkesbarre baseball clubhouse, 1 mile distant from the main opening of the mine. The party, which was in charge of Fire Boss Daniel Reese, consisted of William Jones, William Cahill, and Llewellyn Owens. Blanchard and Miller were left behind to finish some work that had been started in the morning. About twelve minutes after the party had left Miller and Blanchard the explosion occurred. Both Miller and Blanchard were knocked down by its force. Flying timbers also struck Miller, breaking both his arms. After being knocked down Miller and Blanchard remembered nothing until they were revived at the hospital.

UNCLE SAM KICKS.

Won't Allow Fitz and Corbett to Fight in His Yard.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8.—The managers of the Corbett-Fitzsimmons will meet with as effectual opposition at the hands of the United States government as they did with Gov. Culberson, of Texas, if they endeavor to pull off the big fight in the Indian territory. The United States statutes are sufficient to prevent the fight, and steps looking to that end are now being taken by the interior department, and should the managers of the affair invade the Indian territory they will be ejected as intruders. The class of people that will be brought into the territory to witness the fight are considered a demoralizing element to the Indians, and their presence is not wanted there. United States officers of the territory will be instructed to see that the statutes are enforced and the fight prevented. Ample means would be furnished these officials to eject intruders, and the chiefs of the five civilized tribes will be instructed to cooperate with the United States officers in the matter. Officials at Washington laugh at the absurdity of the statement that the principals of the fight would join the Choctaws or some other tribe to enable them to successfully cope with the authorities and pull off the mill. Such action on their part would not aid them in the least in the fulfillment of their object.

POWERS AFTER THE TURK.

A Joint Note Making Strong Demands Sent by Diplomats.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Oct. 8, via Sofia, Oct. 8.—The representatives of the six powers have sent a collective note to the Turkish government, calling attention to the inadequate measures taken by the police authorities to maintain public tranquillity in Constantinople and its suburbs and demanding the prompt institution of a rigorous inquiry into the recent rioting, bloodshed, and wholesale imprisonment of Armenians here. In addition, the powers demand the release of all prisoners who are innocent of wrong doing and the cessation of arrests.

It is stated on what is seemingly good authority that the representatives of the powers have ordered the warships here of the nations they represent to take their positions along the quay.

TOWN IN A PANIC.

Two More Deaths Result from the Sabala (La) Poisoning.

DES MOINES, Ia., Oct. 8.—The state board of health has received an appeal from Sabula, where a large part of the population are suffering from the wholesale poisoning which occurred at a wedding three weeks ago. Two more died Monday, making four dead. D. C. Gage, groom at the wedding, will die, and others are almost certain to do so. The walls of the victims can be heard all over the town day and night. Over 100 are now confined by the complaint. The doctors believe it is trichinosis, but the symptoms reported to the state board, which has sent a representative to Sabula, are those of cholera. The doctors there are exhausted and the town is in a condition of panic.

KILLED BY AN ELK.

Keeper of the St. Louis Zoo Gored to Death While Trying to Save a Doe.

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 8.—While attempting to save the life of a young doe Henry Nelson, the keeper of the Forest Park zoo, was gored to death by an infuriated elk Sunday evening. The elk that caused Nelson's death was brought to this city from Chicago about six years ago. He killed a man while he was confined in Lincoln park. The animal shed the velvet coat of its antlers a few days ago and has been in a vicious temper ever since.

EPISCOPAL CONVENTION.

Important Action Taken by the House of Deputies.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Oct. 8.—By a viva voce vote, which was sufficiently large in volume to restrain the minority from challenging a division, the house of deputies of the Episcopal convention Monday placed itself on record as being willing to surrender one of its most valuable prerogatives and practically the only one that enables it to hold the whip-hand in preventing the house of bishops from making of itself, if it were so disposed, a literal oligarchy. This was its refusal to reenact the clause putting into effect within three days all legislation concerning which the bishops had made no sign. This clause which was omitted from the new revision after a debate in the commission which, it is said, lasted a week,



BISHOP POTTER.

enables the house of bishops to approve just as much of the legislation of the junior body and to indefinitely kill by failure to act all resolutions, reports and other matters with which it may not be in accord.

This was the first victory for the revision commission after several days of debate, but their jubilation was short lived. By an overwhelming majority the house refused to exclude domestic missionary bishops in the counting of a quorum.

Then came the celebrated section three, providing for the election of a primus, or head of the house of bishops, to hold office for life, save in the event of voluntary resignation. Quickly the amendments piled up. One delegate favored a designation of "president bishop," another "archbishop," still another "presiding bishop," one more "primate." The house was not in favor of any one of the first three, nor did it kindly regard a substitute that the bishops elect their own presiding officer and give him whatever designation they might see fit. A vote had not been reached on the "Primate" proposition when the house adjourned.

TO MEET AT ATLANTA.

Farmers' National Congress About Ready to Assemble.

ATLANTA, Ga., Oct. 8.—The fifteenth annual meeting of the Farmers' national congress, being the first Pan-American agricultural parliament, will be held in this city October 10-16. The Farmers' national congress is composed of delegates appointed by the governors of the various states and territories, each state being entitled to as many delegates as it has congressmen and United States senators. At the last annual meeting thirty-six states were represented by delegates and the attendance ranged from 1,500 to 2,000. The South and Central American governments, Mexico, and the British American provinces have been invited to send delegates to the Atlanta meeting, and more than was anticipated have accepted. The secretary of the congress has just received dispatches that delegates will be in attendance from British Columbia and Prince Edward Island—provinces so far away that it was hardly expected that they would have delegates present. The Pan-American agricultural parliament will be preceded by a southern irrigation parliament lasting three days and be followed by a good roads parliament lasting three days. The officers of the Farmers' national congress are: President, B. F. Clayton, of Iowa; vice president, Maj. G. M. Byalls, of Georgia; secretary, John M. Stahl, Chicago.

ATLANTA, Ga., Oct. 8.—The southern irrigation congress was organized here Monday. Prominent farmers and scientists constitute the membership. Dr. H. C. White, of the University of Georgia, is the temporary head of the congress.

W. W. STORY DEAD.

The Noted American Sculptor Passes Away Suddenly in Rome.

ROME, Oct. 8.—William Wetmore Story, the distinguished American sculptor, died suddenly and painlessly Monday at the home of his daughter, Marquise Peruzzi, at Vallombrosa. His health has been failing since the death of his wife last year. [Mr. Story was born at Salem, Mass., February 12, 1819. Among his works in sculpture are numerous monuments, ideal figures and groups, statues and monuments, among which may be mentioned those of Hon. Mr. Justice Story, in Cambridge; Hon. Chief Justice Marshall, in Washington; Hon. Edward Everett, in Boston; Mr. George Peabody, in London and in Baltimore; Prof. Joseph Henry, in Washington; Col. Prescott, at Charlestown, Mass.; William O'Brien Bryant, and a large monument to Francis Scott Key, surrounded by a colossal figure of "America," at San Francisco.]

A PAL'S REVENGE.

It Results in the Arrest of a Noted Post Office Robber.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8.—The post office department received information Monday that "Jake" Ross, a well-known crook and post office safe blower was arrested at Denison, Ia., Sunday, charged with robbing the post office at Nyack, N. Y., in April last, when the safe was blown open and a large number of stamps and cash were stolen, together with numerous registered letters. Ross quarreled with his companion in crime, who informed upon him.